

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, SWEL, UR, US

SUBJECT: RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA: TREATMENT IN USSR FOR
COLETTE BRUNKAN (CONGRESSMAN ASPIN INTEREST)

REFS: (A) STATE 213305, (B) MOSCOW 11408, (C) MOSCOW
10794, (D) MOSCOW 09246

1. CONGRESSMAN ASPIN'S OFFICE HAS JUST LEARNED THAT
BRUNKAN HAS MADE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS TO ACCOMPANY JAMES
NEPPL TO USSR FOR TREATMENT OF RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA,
DEPARTING US SEPTEMBER 17, IN ANTICIPATION OF FAVORABLE
SOVIET RESPONSE PRIOR TO THAT DATE. SOVIET RESPONSE HAS
NOT, HOWEVER, BEEN RECEIVED.

2. BRUNKAN DECISION REPORTEDLY TAKEN ON ADVICE OF TRAVEL
AGENT. BRUNKAN NOW FACED WITH POSSIBILITY OF FORFEITING
COST OF TRIP IF CANCELLATION NECESSARY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 215535

3. DR. STEPANOV OF SOVIET EMBASSY HAS ADVISED ASPIN'S
OFFICE THAT IN ABSENCE OF MOH APPROVAL BRUNKAN CAN EXPECT
NEITHER SOVIET VISA NOR HELMHOLTZ TREATMENT. STEPANOV
INDICATED THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN FROM MOSCOW
STATUS OF BRUNKAN APPLICATION.

4. MOH INDICATED TO EM3OFF EARLY AUGUST, AS PER REFTEL

B, THAT SPECIALISTS WERE STUDYING BRUNKAN'S APPLICATION
FOR HELMHOLTZ TREATMENT AND WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO
OBTAIN DECISION IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO ENABLE HER TO
TRAVEL TO MOSCOW WITH NEPPL.

5. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE
EMBASSY CHECKING ONCE AGAIN WITH APPROPRIATE MOH OFFICIALS
TO ASCERTAIN IF INVITATION MIGHT BE ISSUED TO BRUNKAN
SO THAT SHE MIGHT ACCOMPANY NEPPL TO USSR.
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